

purchased his hymenopteran collection in 1934. Subsequently, his specimens of *P. puparum* must have been transferred from that collection into the box of miscellanea where they were found.

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#### An accidental introduction of a microlepidopteran to Berkshire?

For some time now I have been engaged in rearing species of bagworm moths (Lep.: Psychidae). One such species, *Dahlica triquetrella* (Hb.), was reared during 1997 and 1998 from material originating from Orpington, Kent (*Br. J. ent. nat. Hist.* **12**: 29-30), adults of the F<sub>1</sub> generation emerging during February and March 1998. The known distribution of this insect in Great Britain is very restricted, being found in West Kent (VC 16), Westmoreland and North Lancashire (VC 69) and recently in South Essex (VC 18). Hence I was very surprised, and somewhat sceptical, to find cased larvae of this species ascending three short lengths of brick wall at the far end of my road here in Reading during the late summer of 2001. Positive identification of the species involved was achieved by analysing the DNA from one larva.

On 8 September, at 19.30 hours, I noticed the first of these larvae. Three further examples were found the following evening at 16.30 hours, and individual larvae on 10 September at 18.00 hours, 11 September at 18.30 hours and 12 September at 18.30 hours. Despite nightly checks being made, there then followed a break of around a week, which coincided with cool wet weather, until 20 September, when a further example was found on the same stretch of wall at 18.00 hours. The weather by this time was much warmer and drier, as it had been on previous occasions when larvae were found. The following night a further larva was found at 17.30 hours, followed by two more on 24 September at 21.00 hours. The weather turned cold and wet again, and it was not until it warmed up that more were found. One larva was found on 6 October at 17.00 hours, one on 9 October at 17.30 hours, one on 19 October at 19.00 hours, one on 22 October at 18.00 hours and the final one on 31 October at 21.00 hours. In total, 17 larvae were found over a period of approximately one month.

This number of larvae is significant and suggests that a population of *D. triquetrella* is probably established in the area. However, it is unlikely that these larvae represent a natural population, as I have walked past the walls in question many times over the past 14 years or so and feel sure I would have spotted them had they been present previously. I can only assume that these larvae, collected near my house, came to be there through an accidental introduction. It is probable that these individuals were the progeny of one or more “escapees” from the material reared during 1997 and 1998, despite stringent efforts to prevent this. These precautions included placing waste material from culture vessels in boiling water for 10 minutes or more before sealing the same in plastic bags and placing it in the dustbin on “bin days”. All the same, it is somewhat puzzling that the walls in question are about 200 metres from my house, and no larvae have been seen on any other walls in the area despite extensive searches of these being made at the time these larvae were found. It will be interesting to see if this moth persists in the area over the coming years.—IAN SIMS, 2 The Delph, Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 3AN.

#### **Lang’s Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithous* (L.) (Lep.: Lycaenidae) and other butterflies on Lanzarote**

Further to recent records of *Leptotes pirithous* on Fuerteventura by Hall (1998, *Ent. Rec.* **110**: 289-290) and on Madeira by Hall and Russell (2001, *Ent. Rec.* **113**: 261), we report that *L. pirithous* was seen for the first time on Lanzarote at Playa Blanca, a single fresh female on 29 February 2000, by Martin Gascoigne-Pees, who visited Lanzarote between 25 February and 2 March 2000 and between 23 and 30 December 2001. David Hall and Peter Russell, who visited the island between 10 and 17 February 2002, observed this butterfly at both Playa Blanca, a worn male on 12 February, and also near Orzola at the opposite end of the island, two males on 14 February, flying around Mimosa *Acacia* sp., indicating that this species is now widespread, but not common on Lanzarote.

Foster (2000, *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 271) recorded *Cacyreus marshalli* (Butler) for the first time from the Canary Islands, on Lanzarote at Costa Teguisse on 15 February 2000; it was also seen at Playa Blanca on 29 February 2002 and in 2002 at Matagorda (10 February), Playa Blanca and Femes (12 February), at two sites near Guatiza (13 February), near Orzola (14 February), near Arrieta and near Teguisse (16 February). All stages of development were observed, indicating that this species is resident, common and widespread across the island almost wherever *Pelargonium* spp. are found.

*Zizeeria knysna* (Trimen) was confirmed as being resident on Lanzarote but was seen only at Playa Blanca in 2000, Las Laderas (near Playa Blanca) in 2001 and again along the coastal path at Playa Blanca in 2002. It was common and usually flying around an *Amaranthus* sp., upon which the females were observed to oviposit. Captive larvae accepted *Medicago sativa*, the resulting adult males had wide black wing margins and the females were well flushed with blue. *Polyommatus icarus* (Rottemberg) was seen near Tinajo and Mancha Blanca in late February 2000 but not on 11 February 2002 when the area was visited again. The females were extensively flushed blue on their uppersides with large bright orange lunules.